

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

Amendments to Independent Claims

Claims 1 and 19, as amended herein, include the features of a camera that is stationary, a cradle having sides that are fixed relative to one another throughout imaging of an entirety of the bound document, and a cradle positioning mechanism that is coupled to the cradle, and that drives the cradle and the bound document supported thereon a distance along a directional axis relative to a camera, the distance being based on an angle of at least one of the sides relative to horizontal. Claim 21, as amended herein, includes the features of fixing a camera in a stationary position, fixing sides of the cradle relative to one another throughout imaging of an entirety of the bound document, and driving the cradle a distance along a directional axis relative to a camera, the distance being based on an angle of at least one of the side relative to horizontal and using a cradle positioner that is coupled to the cradle.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 12-15, 17, 19-25, 27, 29, 32-35 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Taylor. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed in further detail below, Taylor fails to set forth each and every element of claims 1, 19 and 21. Consequently, Taylor fails to show the identical systems and method in as complete detail as is contained in respective claims 1, 19 and 21.

As discussed in detail in Applicants' previous response, Taylor provides a method and apparatus for the viewing and acquisition of images of a document (see Abstract). With particular reference to Figs. 4A, 4B, and 6A-8B, Taylor provides a cradle assembly 200 having a left cradle half 210 and a right cradle half 260 to hold a book in position, and to present open pages of the book for image acquisition (see paragraphs [0093] and [0096]). The cradle halves 210, 260 are adjustable relative to one another in an x-direction using left and right slide

mechanisms 248, 298, respectively (see paragraph [0105]). During imaging of the document, respective drive motors 220, 270 are implemented to adjust the positions of the cradle halves 210, 260 relative to one another in x- and y-directions along a path defined by the linkages 218, 268, and along the x-direction using the slide mechanisms 248, 298 (see paragraphs [0103]-[0104]). With particular reference to Figs. 8A and 8B of Taylor, the left cradle half 210 is in a first position relative to the right cradle half 260 at the beginning of the imaging (see Fig. 8A). As the imaging progresses, the cradle halves 210, 260 are adjusted relative to one another to account for the increased number of pages on the left side, and the decreased number of pages on the right. At the end of the imaging, the left cradle half 210 is in a second position relative to the right cradle half 260 (see Fig. 8B).

Taylor does not disclose the feature of a cradle having sides that are fixed relative to one another throughout imaging of an entirety of the bound document. Instead, Taylor provides a very complex cradle arrangement, in which the cradle halves are constantly adjusted relative to one another throughout imaging of the entirety of a bound document (e.g., compare Fig. 8A to Fig. 8B, and compare Fig. 11A to Fig. 11B). Taylor also does not disclose the feature of a cradle positioning mechanism that is coupled to the cradle, and that drives the cradle and the bound document supported thereon a distance along a directional axis relative to a camera, the distance being based on an angle of at least one of the sides relative to horizontal. Although the cradle halves of Taylor are adjustable relative to one another along the x-direction, Taylor does not describe the cradle assembly, as a whole, being driven along the x-direction, much less by a distance that is based on an angle of a cradle half relative to horizontal.

In view of the foregoing, Taylor fails to set forth each and every element of claims 1, 19 and 21, and fails to show the identical systems and method in as complete detail as is contained in respective claims 1, 19 and 21. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 19, 21 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,640,252 to Turner et al. ("Turner"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed in further detail below, Turner fails to set forth each and every element of claims 1, 19 and 21. Consequently, Turner fails to show the identical systems and method in as complete detail as is contained in respective claims 1, 19 and 21.

Turner is directed to a bound document imager that includes an imaging device 12 and a carriage 42 that supports a book 6 (see Fig. 1). The imaging device 12 includes detector arrays 18, 20 and is movable to selectively engage the book 6 (see Figs. 2 and 6-8). As the imaging device 12 engages the book 6, the force exerted by the imaging device 12 drives the book and the carriage 42 incrementally in a lateral direction to self align the book 6 (see col. 5, ll. 40-48).

Turner fails to disclose the feature of a camera that is stationary. In fact, Turner discloses just the opposite. More specifically, Turner provides a movable imaging device that includes detector arrays. Turner requires the imaging device, and thus the detector arrays to be movable, in order to engage and image the book. Turner further fails to disclose the feature of a cradle positioning mechanism that is coupled to a cradle, and that drives the cradle and the bound document supported thereon a distance along a directional axis relative to a camera based on an angle of at least one of the sides relative to horizontal. Instead, the carriage and book of Turner are driven in a lateral direction based the on the force of the imaging device, as it selectively contacts the book. The imaging device, however, is not coupled to the carriage and, in fact, must be free of the carriage to be movable relative thereto. Consequently, Turner also fails to disclose the feature of driving the carriage a distance that is based on an angle of a side of the carriage relative to horizontal.

In view of the foregoing, Turner fails to set forth each and every element of claims 1, 19 and 21, and fails to show the identical systems and method in as complete detail as is contained in respective claims 1, 19 and 21. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Other Claim Amendments

Claim 36 has been amended to correct a dependency. No new matter has been entered.

CONCLUSION

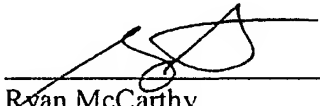
It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reason for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to amendment. Applicants respectfully request consideration of all filed IDS' not previously considered, by initialing and returning each Form 1449.

The undersigned attorney welcomes the opportunity to further discuss by telephone any position or issue not fully addressed by the above remarks and amendments.

No charges are believed due. However, if any fees are due, they are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply all charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 16113-1304001.

Respectfully submitted,

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